

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Muller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,489) (Muller).

It is respectfully submitted the rejection of claims 1-13 is traversed for at least the following reasons:

Regarding independent claim 1:

Applicant's independent claim 1 includes a plurality of packets are reassembled into a single big packet to be transmitted to a receiving buffer (see limitation (2) of independent claim 1 described later).

The size of the big packet is determined by the free space of the receiving buffer (applicant's limitation (3)).

In contrast Muller discloses that before a transfer engine transfers packets to a memory buffer of a host computer, a re-assembly buffer is used for reassembling the packets. The size of the re-assembly buffer is fixed to the size of a page memory which can be taken by the memory buffer of the host computer.

Therefore contrarily to applicant's claimed invention, there is no description in Muller of the size of the big packet is determined by the free space of the receiving buffer as claimed.

Accordingly applicant's in claimed invention, even if the size of the receiving buffer changes dynamically, the big packet can be reassembled within the range that the receiving buffer will not overflow, so that an efficient transfer is realized by eliminating overhead.

It is apparent from the portion referenced in the Office Action that Muller tries to completely fill the re-assembly buffer (see col.86 lines 10-24). The free space of the re-assembly buffer is used in checking whether or not the re-assembly buffer is full, so that when the re-assembly buffer is full, the remainder of the data that is unable to fit into the current re-assembly buffer is stored in the next re-assembly buffer (see col.86, lines 37-43).

Therefore, Muller fail to disclose that the free space of the re-assembly buffer is used for determining the size of the big packet into which a plurality of receiving packets are reassembled.

Also, "notification" of the free space (see applicant's limitation (1)) is not disclosed by Muller. Applicant's claim 1 recites: first means notifying a free space of the receiving buffer, second means reassembling a plurality of receiving packets into a single big packet, based on the free space, to be transmitted to the receiving buffer, and third means determining a size of the big packet based on the free space.

Referring to applicant's independent claim 1, Muller fails to describe or suggest notifying "free space of receiving buffer." Therefore, Muller fails to disclose the limitations related to "free space" recited in claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Muller fail to disclose the following limitations of independent claim 1:

- (1) first means notifying a free space of the receiving buffer,
- (2) second means reassembling a plurality of receiving packets into a single big packet, based on the free space, to be transmitted to the receiving buffer, and
- (3) third means determining a size of the big packet based on the free space.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted applicant's independent claim 1 is patentable over Muller.

Regarding dependent claims 2-13:

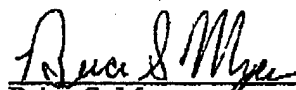
With regard to items 6-10 on pages 5, 7-10 clarification is respectfully requested since there does not appear to be a correspondence to the recited elements in these claims.

Claims 2-13 depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, are likewise patentable for at least the reasons of their dependency from independent claim 1.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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